

PRELIMINARY DIAGNOSES OF FOUR NEW SEA SNAKES.

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Hydrophis lamberti.

Posterior maxillary teeth, 10. Head moderate, body moderately elongate. Eye longer than its distance from the mouth, rostral broader than deep, frontal shorter than its distance from the rostral; one prae- and two postoculars; two superposed anterior temporals followed by ordinary scales; 8 supralabials, third and fourth touching the eye. No distinct posterior chin-shields.

35 scales round the neck, 45 round the body, anteriorly imbricate, posteriorly hexagonal and more or less juxtaposed, with a central tubercle or short keel. Ventrals distinct throughout, 281-302.

Yellowish grey above, yellowish white below, with 33 to 38 dark dorsal rhombs. Head yellowish olive.

Total length, 860; tail 80 mm.

Habitat, Gulf of Siam. Type locality, mouth of the Meklong River.

Closely allied to *H. ornatus* Gray, from which it differs chiefly in the smaller number of scales round the body.

Hydrophis rostralis.

Posterior maxillary teeth, 5. Head small, body long and slender anteriorly, snout long. Rostral as broad as deep, the portion visible above equal to three-quarters or the whole length of the internasal suture. Frontal shorter than its distance from the rostral one prae- and one postocular; one large anterior temporal, succeeded by another as large. 6 supralabials, third and fourth touching the eye. Chin-shields subequal, the posterior pair in contact.

20 to 23 scales round the neck, 35 to 41 round the thickest part of the body, anteriorly elongate and imbricate, posteriorly hexagonal and more or less juxtaposed, the keels most strongly marked posteriorly, and usually broken up into several tubercles. Ventrals feebly enlarged, single anteriorly, completely divided by a median furrow posteriorly, 272 to 302.